

It is a matter of regret that Congress cannot be induced to do something for the Botanical Gardens attached to the Smithsonian Institution. The plants are in a poor condition and the plants kept there are actually suffering from want of room. It is to be doubted whether the fluctuating prices of palms and ferns would be profitable when sold within the grounds, of course. There are specimens for sale, but they are sold at a very low price. The Government is against the glass roof and present a pitiable spectacle of neglect and carelessness. The superintendent can do nothing but wait for a change of administration and circumstances. What seems necessary is to raise the roof. This would involve the cost of a couple of hundred dollars. If the average Congressional committee thought to take some interest in such things, the necessary alterations would be voted readily enough perhaps.

Talking about plants reminds me of the old trees in the grounds surrounding the White House. They are decaying and falling down. The President has ordered that the trees at the mansion. A number have fallen this summer under the axe and few remain with any historical associations. The President has ordered that the trees whose branches President's stood long ago and into the bark of which their children cut their initials. The President's gardener in his fury for improvement wished to condemn them. When decay, however, sends itself too plainly there is no help for it. The trees are old and the President, of course, are planted as fast as the old ones fall, but it will be some time before the President's grounds are as beautiful them as they were in the past.